No. 511|90 regarding counting of service in S-Grade or its equivalent grade in ARS is already under implementation.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Rise in Cost of Fertilizer

1668. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of fertilizers has risen following partial withdrawal of fertiliser subsidy;

(b) if so, the effect of price rise on the use of fertilizers by the farmers; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating withdrawal of the remaining portion of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The consumer prices of fertilizers was increased by 40 per cent on an average w.e.f. 25-7-91 and later reduced to a 30 per cent increase w.e.f. 14-8-91.

The price of fertiliser is one of the variables which determine the extent of fertiliser consumption. These *inter alia* include (a) weather rainfall (b) the area under irrigated high yielding varieties (c) availability of credit etc. The consumption of fertiliser in 1991-92 is estimated to be higher than the consumption in 1990-91 though the rate of growth in fertiliser consumption was lower than anticipated.

(c) A Parliamentary Committee is currently looking into various aspects of fertiliser pricing and subsidy.

Import of Rice

1669. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import one million tonnes of rice in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India failed in planning a proper procurement policy for rice; and

(d) what is the shortfall in procurement of rice as on this date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The possibility of importing some rice during 1992-93 to augment overall foodgrain stocks in tne Central Pool is being looked into.

(c) No, Sir. Paddy is procured under price support operations on voluntary basis and rice is collected in the form of levy from millers depending upon the quantum of paddy purchased by them.

(d) As on 17th July, 1992, the procurement of rice, including paddy in terms of rice, during kharif 1991-92 is 101.77 lakh tonnes as against 125.47 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year.

Supply of Sugar to Madhya Pradesh

1670. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Miinster of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh is being given sugar quota by Government on the basis of its 1986 population;

(b) if so, what arrangements Government propose to make sugar available to the population which has increased between 1986 to 1992;